



LIBRARY ACQUIRES EARLIEST KNOWN REPRODUCTION OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

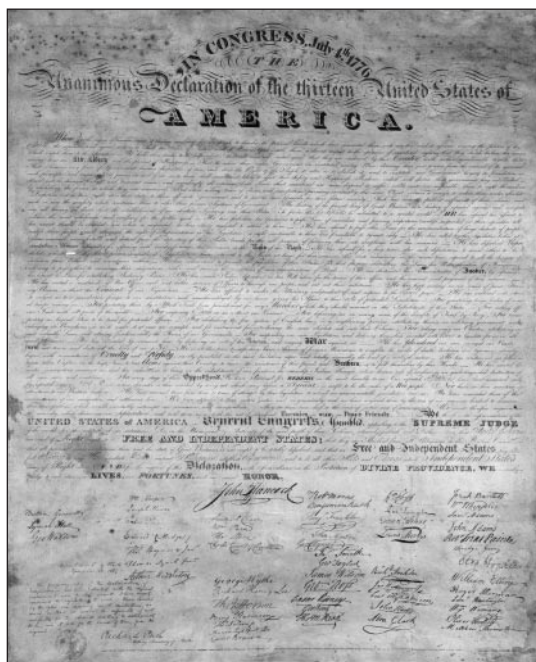
The earliest known reproduction of the Declaration of Independence, engraved from a copper plate in 1818 by Benjamin Owen Tyler, a noted professor of penmanship in Washington, DC, has recently been acquired by the Library of Virginia. Tyler's reproduction was the first, coming less than 50 years after the penning of the original document, and his ornate text is accompanied by near-perfect facsimile signatures of the signers. The subscription book for Tyler's venture, housed at the University of Virginia Library, lists nearly 1,000 subscribers, although many of those individuals never actually purchased a copy due to the relatively high cost (paper copies were five dollars with parchment copies priced at seven dollars). It is not known exactly how many paper copies Tyler sold, although certainly less than a thousand. It is thought that as few as a dozen copies were engraved on parchment (skin) and the Library of Virginia's copy is one of those. Only four parchment copies are recorded in institutions, including the Library's copy. Massachusetts Historical Society has a parchment copy as does the American Antiquarian Society and Harvard University. One parchment copy is currently for sale on the open market. The New York Public Library owns a unique copy of Tyler's work done on silk and the University of Virginia owns a paper copy.

Although Tyler's reproduction of the Declaration of Independence was the first, it was not the authorized version. That copy, engraved in 1823 by William J. Stone, and officially commissioned by Act of Congress at the behest of John Quincy Adams, is an

exact facsimile in text and signatures. The Library of Virginia has had a parchment copy of that reproduction in its collection for some time although its physical condition clearly shows the ravages of time. The recent Tyler acquisition is in remarkably fine condition and has already undergone preliminary stabilization and conservation treatment at the Etherington Conservation Center, Inc. in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Tyler's reproduction also carries a distinctive, although faint, dedicatory passage to Thomas Jefferson engraved at the head of the document. The text of that dedication reads: *To Thomas Jefferson, Patron of the Arts, the firm supporter of American Independence, and the Rights of Man, this Charter of our Freedom is, with the highest esteem, most Respectfully Inscribed by his much Obligated and very Humble Servant Benjamin Owen Tyler.* Tyler felt that his work also required written proof of authenticity. Consequently, his reproduction carries a signed statement in the lower right hand corner from Richard Rush, acting Secretary of State which declared: *The foregoing copy of the declaration of Independence, has been collated with the original instrument and found correct. I have, myself, examined the signatures to each. Those executed by Mr. Tyler are curiously exact imitations; so much so that it would be difficult if not impossible for the closest scrutiny to distinguish them, were it not for the hand of time, from the originals.* {signed in facsimile:} *Richard Rush Acting Secretary of State* {with the seal of the Secretary of State's office}.

—submitted by Tom Camden,
Collection Management Services



THE LIBRARY
OF VIRGINIA

800 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219-8000
(804) 692-3592 • www.lva.lib.va.us

Janice M. Hathcock, *Editor*
Amy C. Winegardner, *Graphic Designer*
Peter E. Broadbent, Jr., *Board Chair*
Nolan T. Yelich, *Librarian of Virginia*

Working Out Her Destiny To Feature Virginia Women

They fought in wars, organized for women's rights, established television stations, wrote best-selling novels, fought disease, worked as missionaries, scientists and educators, broke the gender barrier at public colleges and universities and served their state and nation. *Working Out Her Destiny*, an exhibition opening at the Library of Virginia on August 2, 2004, and running through March 26, 2005, will feature nearly 40 Virginia women from across 400 years of Virginia history.

Working Out Her Destiny is an extraordinary exhibition celebrating Virginia women who have challenged and changed our state. The women profiled in the exhibition demonstrated courage, tenacity, brilliance, style and spirit. In many instances their ...see **Destiny**, pg. 6

A New Paradigm for Capitol Square

Since 1789, the Virginia State Capitol has never been large enough to accommodate the governors, senators, delegates, appointed officers, lobbyists and state employees it houses. This is evidenced by the numerous additions to Capitol Square: the Bell Tower (1824), Finance Building (1895), Capitol wings (1904–1906), State Office Building (1924), and Virginia State Library-Supreme Court of Appeals Building (1940). The countless gubernatorial administrations represented in the Library of Virginia's state records collection often address the issue of overcrowded offices and lack of space for Virginia state government. One particular set of architectural renderings in the drawings & plans collection at the Library gives an interesting glimpse of an idea that never reached fruition.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, officials faced a serious lack of office space due to the dramatic expansion of state government caused by the Great Depression and World War II. In 1941, the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council expressed these concerns in a report to the Governor's Office.

The council noted the high rent costs incurred by state government to house agencies' offices, and, further, it stated that even with the new State Library and Highway Department buildings (1940–1941), the state still faced a severe lack of office space for the executive, legislative and judicial bodies. State agencies clamored for more office space and groused at the overcrowding through the 1940s, but

little was done due to the need for labor and material for the war effort.

Finally in 1945, Governor Colgate W. Darden appointed a five-member panel to investigate the construction of a new state office building. David V. Chapman, Director of Grounds and Buildings, headed up the body, known as the Local Building Committee of the Capitol Square, charged with selecting a site for expansion. The Committee surveyed state agencies and asked directors to submit their projected

to office use or demolition for new construction. In his report, Chapman also called for a comprehensive study of Capitol Square to determine future development.

Not to be outdone, the General Assembly appointed its own nine-member State Office Building Commission in March 1946 to select an appropriate location and design for a new state office building on Capitol Square. Unfortunately, inflation of postwar construction costs and short supplies of labor and materials made the Committee's findings moot. In December 1946, Governor William Tuck banned all but "emergency" construction by the state in an effort to curtail expenses and provide more resources for the private sector. This prevented the government from constructing new facilities and from repairing existing structures. Tuck's decision came in spite of warnings from the Director of Grounds & Buildings that the existing storage and office overcrowding issues presented significant fire hazards and potential structural failures in the buildings on Capitol Square.

The postwar focus on civilian concerns generated the most vocal debate over state office space. Two very different ideologies regarding the physical placement of Virginia's governmental bodies grew following the creation of yet another commission to explore expansion. The Public Buildings Commission, created by the General Assembly in 1948, ...see [Square](#), pg. 7

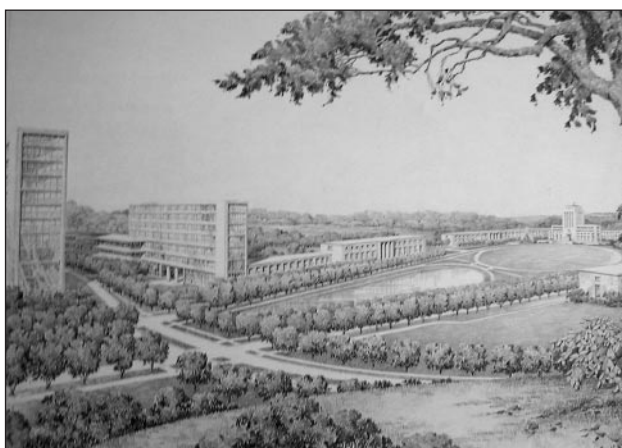


Illustration from 1949 "Site Study for Future State Buildings"

office space needs through 1955. Based on this information, the Committee concluded that state government and its associated agencies, boards, committees, councils, etc., would need approximately 379,000 square feet of space in publicly owned buildings, an 80 percent increase in needed office space. The Local Building Committee of the Capitol Square suggested that the state purchase standing structures for conversion

Family Bible Is Possible Link To Booker T. Washington

The Library of Virginia recently acquired the family Bible of Joseph Burroughs (1763–1833) of Bedford County, Virginia. This Bible is of special note to the African-American researcher because Joseph Burroughs' son, James Burroughs (1794–1861), was the slave owner of Booker T. Washington (1856–1915) and his mother, Jane. Although the original owner of the Bible was Joseph Burroughs, there is a notation on the inside cover stating, "This book is to be returned, when called for, by Elizabeth W. Burroughs." Elizabeth W. (Robertson)

Burroughs (1802–1895), was the wife of James Burroughs, and according to family tradition, the slaves of Joseph Burroughs passed to his son James when Joseph died. Although the names of Booker T. Washington and his mother, Jane, are not listed in the Bible, there is a listing of a slave named Esther. Esther was born in 1804 and, according to the donor of the Bible, was possibly the grandmother of Booker T. Washington. Unfortunately there is no further proof that Esther was the grandmother of Booker T. Washington, but the Bible may

prove to be a helpful tool for families researching the Washington family and their slave roots in Bedford and Franklin counties, Virginia. The original Burroughs family Bible is housed in the archives, while copies will be served to the public as LVA Accession No. 41132. The Bible was donated by Mrs. Danya Ann Burroughs Redd of North Carolina, and Mrs. Daun Rita Burroughs Elder of Kentucky.

—submitted by Renee M. Savits,
Collection Management Services

“Virginia Is For Lovers” Exhibition To Tour the State

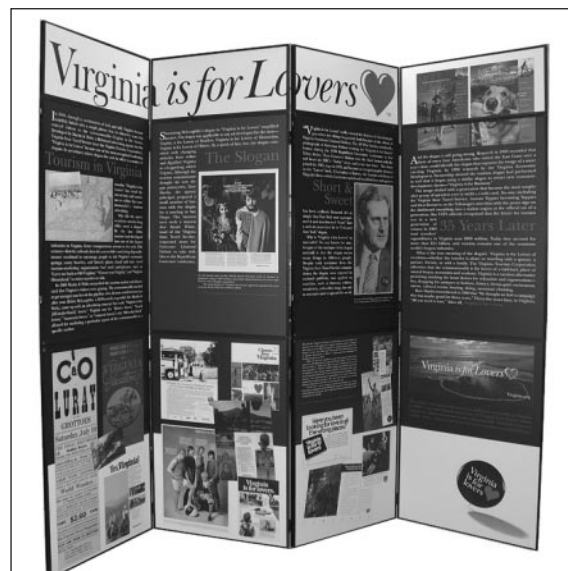
The Library of Virginia, in collaboration with the Virginia Tourism Corporation, announces the creation of a traveling exhibition to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Commonwealth's travel slogan “Virginia Is For Lovers.” Following a special preview at the Virginia Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism in Roanoke the exhibition will travel to each of the state's 11 congressional districts with stops at public libraries and cultural attractions. First stop for the exhibition is the Roanoke Convention & Visitors' Bureau located at 110 Shenandoah Avenue NE, Roanoke, Va.

The “Virginia Is For Lovers” traveling exhibition is seven feet eight inches high and approximately ten-feet long. To schedule the exhibition please contact Martha Steger, Director of Public Relations, Virginia Tourism Corporation, 804-371-8169 or <msteger@virginia.org>.

Since its introduction in 1969 “Virginia Is For Lovers” has entered the lexicon of the American language as one of the most memorable and enduring advertising slogans. The panel exhibition traces the development of tourism in Virginia and the need by the 1960s for a slogan to attract a younger group of tourists. Featuring tourist maps and excursion brochures from the Library's collections paired with collages of ads from the Virginia Tourism Corporation the exhibition presents a lively and nostalgic look at a slogan that has become an icon for the Virginia tourism industry.

The Library of Virginia will mount an exhibition on tourism in Virginia in 2009 to mark the 40th anniversary of “Virginia Is For Lovers” and to explore the history of tourism in the Commonwealth. Check the Library's web site (<http://www.lva.lib.va.us>) for current programs and exhibitions.

The Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) works with the tourism industry to expand the Commonwealth's domestic and international travel market, thereby increasing visitor expenditures, tax revenues and employment. The VTC alone generates more than 1.1 million consumer inquiries annually through advertising, web sites and marketing programs.



What's In A Geographic Name? Virginia Prepares to Restore and Renovate Buildings in Capitol Square

By invitation of the Virginia state names authority, state archivist Conley Edwards, the Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names held its monthly meeting at the Library of Virginia, in May. For a brief time it appeared that the Board would take historic action and officially change the name of Rhode Island to Aquidneck Island. The name Aquidneck Island is of indigenous origin and is commonly used.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is a federal body created in 1890. Comprised of representatives of federal agencies, appointed for two-year terms, the Board is authorized to establish and maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the federal government. Although established to serve the federal government as a central authority to which all name problems, name inquiries and new name proposals can be directed, the Board also plays a similar role for the general public. The Board's policy is to recognize present-day local usage or preferences when possible. Where local usage is conflicting or weak, well established documented names are given strong consideration.

The policy sounds straightforward, but what about Aquidneck Island versus Rhode Island? At its May meeting the BGN considered a request concerning this geographic feature not the state!

The issue of what to call the 16-mile long by 4.5-mile island is not a new one for the Board of Geographic Names. Twice previously the Board has taken action on the name of the island, in 1930 and 1964. In 1930, in what is believed to be the only departure from established policy, both names, Aquidneck Island and Rhode Island, were approved for official use, with no preference given to either name.

In 1962, the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey submitted a request to make Rhode Island the official name for the island. The agency contended that the dual usage on federal maps and publications was confusing, and that the name Aquidneck Island was no longer used by locals. Because the official name of the state included Rhode Island (Rhode Island and Providence Plantations) the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey considered Rhode Island to be the historical name for the island. The BGN agreed in 1964.

In 1971, a 1644 law was discovered stating that the island “commonly known as Aquidneck, shall be henceforth called the Isle of Rhodes or RHODE ...see **Name**, pg. 5

Restoration and renovation of the Finance Building, Capitol Building and Washington Building in Capitol Square in downtown Richmond has begun and will continue until late 2006. During construction over the next 30 months there will be changes in the access to these buildings. For safety precautions some sidewalks will be closed to pedestrian traffic.

The \$190 million improvement project to Capitol Square also includes the renovation of the Virginia State Library-Supreme Court of Appeals Building which began in March 2003 and is expected to be completed in March of 2005. The Library of Virginia moved from the Capitol Square site in 1996 to its new location on Broad Street. Now the former state library building will serve as temporary office space for the legislature when the General Assembly is relocated for the 2006 legislative session. ...see **Restore**, pg. 4

Records of Tredegar Iron Works Catalogued and Ready For Use

After three years of processing, the Tredegar Iron Works Records, 1801–1957, are fully catalogued, described and available to the public. The records include more than 596 cubic feet of material, including 1,345 boxes, 490 volumes, 7 oversize boxes and 6 oversize map case drawers. A 276-page finding aid makes using the collection easier. Tredegar Iron Works was one of the most important and largest iron making factories in Virginia and the Confederacy. The company was started in 1836 by a group of Richmond businessmen and soon after was managed and then owned by Joseph Reid Anderson (1813–1892), who was born in Botetourt County, Virginia. Anderson, along with his heirs, continued to own and operate the company until its sale to Albemarle Paper Manufacturing Company in 1957. Throughout its long history, Tredegar manufactured rails and railroad construction equipment, including axles, cars, fastenings, bar iron, spikes and wheels; and horse shoes, decorative iron work, structural bridge iron and munitions. During the Civil War, Tredegar was the largest ironworks in the Confederacy and virtually the sole source of heavy guns, projectiles, gun carriages, plates for iron-clad vessels and shells. The company also produced numerous munitions for the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II.

The collection is arranged into eight series including administrative records; general accounts; production and labor records; purchasing and receiving records; sales and shipping records; correspondence, incoming; correspondence, outgoing; and Anderson family papers. The records include balance books, cashbooks, contract books, correspondence, daybooks, deeds, estate accounts, family papers, insurance policies, invoices, journals, ledgers, minute books, patents, payroll ledgers, real estate files, sales books, stock certificates, suit papers, tax returns, vouchers and war department contracts. The collection documents the financial and sales side of the company and records nearly every item produced and sold throughout the period from 1836 to 1957. Two of the largest series are the correspondence series (incoming and outgoing), which include more than 1,000 boxes of letters and letterbooks. These series provide insight into the types of materials produced, prices, amounts, availability, shipping capabilities and Tredegar's relationships with the business world. Included are letters from banks, coal companies, government agencies, merchandise brokers, ordnance departments, purchasing agents, railroads, shipping companies and suppliers, from across the country. Associated with many of these letters were engineering and technical drawings of the various angles, bars, plates, railroad chairs and equipment ordered. More than 1,000 drawings were separated out due to size and are listed in an itemized appendix at the end of the collection. Also well documented within the collection are employee wages, with an almost complete run of payroll ledgers from 1852–1957. These ledgers often list the employee's name, job position, time worked, pay received and sometimes race. Of note to the Civil War historian, the collection includes records relating to the production of munitions and iron-plates for the *C.S.S. Virginia* for the Confederacy, use of slave labor and the role of Tredegar during the war. Another important aspect of the collection is availability of numerous deeds and agreements regarding the company, and the records relating to the waterpower system, employed by Tredegar.

The finding aid for the collection is available in the Archives Reference room and describes the records in great detail. The finding aid soon will be available online at the web site of the Virginia Heritage Project <<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/speccol/vhp/>>. The web site is linked through the Library of Virginia's catalog <<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/index.htm>> and researchers can access the finding aid through either web site.

—submitted by Renee M. Savits, Collection Management Services

Editor's Note: Readers also may be interested in *Ironmaker to the Confederacy: Joseph R. Anderson and the Tredegar Ironworks*, written by Charles B. Dew and republished by the Library of Virginia with a new preface, maps and illustrations in 1999. The 345-page reprint includes 10 black-and-white illustrations and maps. It is available for \$25 by calling 804-692-3524.

NOLAN T. YELICH RECEIVES ALA IMMROTH AWARD

Librarian of Virginia Nolan T. Yelich has been named the 2004 winner of the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award for Intellectual Freedom, presented by the American Library Association (ALA) Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT). The Immroth Award honors intellectual freedom fighters who have demonstrated remarkable personal courage in resisting censorship. The award consists of \$500 and a citation.

The Immroth Award Committee chose Yelich for his courageous and victorious stand in defense of freedom of information in Virginia. For several months he vigorously and publicly pursued the complete records of former Virginia Governor James Gilmore's administration for the state archives of Virginia.

"Nolan Yelich demonstrated steadfast leadership in protecting and preserving the public interest by upholding state law," said Chair Sylvia Turchyn. "With his thoroughly professional yet insistent pursuit of public information, Yelich sets an excellent standard for other state librarians faced with increasing refusals by elected government officials to surrender papers for archival preservation and access by the citizenry."

The award was presented in June during the IFRT program at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla.

For more information regarding the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award and past recipients, please visit <<http://www.ala.org/ala/ifrt/ifrtinaction/ifrtawards/immroth/immroth.htm>>.

—submitted by Nanette Perez, Project Coordinator, American Library Association

Restore... Visitors to Capitol Square are still welcome during construction, but for safety reasons visitors are strongly recommended to take a formal tour with a Capitol Tour Guide. For tour information please call 804-698-1788 or log on to <<http://legis.state.va.us/CapitolTours/CapitolTours.htm>>. For more information about improvements on Capitol Square or construction zones, log on to <www.dgs.state.va.us>.

REMEMBERING THE VALLEY TURNPIKE

Open a box of records from the Valley Turnpike Company in the Board of Public Works collection at the Library of Virginia and you'll find the company's 1853 seal—a sheaf of wheat in a circle. Researching among the company's letters, reports and lists of stockholders, Augusta County Historical Society president Kenneth W. Keller found the image both meaningful and important. The sheaf of wheat was particularly significant as a symbol of the turnpike's role in shipping flour from the Valley of Virginia to the Potomac and the port of Baltimore.

Keller, a professor of history at Mary Baldwin College, studies the turnpikes of western Virginia in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Valley Turnpike was a 92-mile stretch of macadamized toll road between Staunton and Winchester. "It had had the reputation of being the best extensive paved road in Virginia," Keller explains, "and maybe in the South." The turnpike was established in 1838, became a free state highway in 1918, and played an important part in the economic development of Augusta County and the Shenandoah Valley.

The Library of Virginia recently granted permission for the Augusta County Historical Society to reproduce the turnpike seal on lapel buttons. The Library's Photographic and Digital Imaging Services staff produced a sharp copy of the image, which a local sheltered workshop in Augusta County made into blue-and-white lapel buttons measuring two-and-a-half inches in diameter. The buttons were distributed at the society's annual banquet, at Staunton's Victorian Days celebration and at the Valley Road conference in Winchester. These striking buttons are the latest example of how archival records at the Library may be used in innovative and creative ways to explore Virginia's past.

The records of the Board of Public Works are rich in the details of the development of Virginia's internal improvements during the 19th century. Over the years, researchers have used the records for many purposes. Maps, plans and correspondence relating to canals have aided in the restoration of canal locks and other surviving canal features. Records relating to turnpikes and railroads assisted in resolving right-of-way questions. Field survey notes help identify changes in topography and aid in archaeological surveys. Patrons may explore records of the Board of Public Works in the online guide, and view maps in the collection, on the Library's web site <www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/gov/bpw.htm>. An extensive bibliography on the internal improvement movement by senior research archivist and map specialist Marianne McKee is also available online.

—submitted by Jennifer Davis McDaid, Archives Research Services



Name... ISLAND." The 1644 law was never repealed, amended or terminated and as such was considered applicable today.

The issue remained a subject of interest and the argument for a change was bolstered by the widespread local usage of Aquidneck Island. Federal maps since 1892 have referred to the island as Rhode Island. A resident of Middletown submitted a proposal to recognize Aquidneck Island as the official name of Rhode Island since it was in widespread local usage.

The staff of the Board of Geographic Names solicited input from local and state government and indigenous peoples on the issue. The town councils of Portsmouth and Middletown were opposed to changing the name to Aquidneck Island. The manager of the City of Newport also recommended that Rhode Island remain the official name as did the Rhode Island State Names Authority. The president of the Aquidneck Indian Council strongly endorsed official recognition of the name Aquidneck Island. Several other area Indian tribes voiced support for the name change.

The Office of the Governor of Rhode Island was contacted for comment. Despite repeated assurances that a letter was forthcoming none arrived by the time the U.S. Board on Geographic Names met. The Board vote resulted in a tie so action is deferred until the next BGN meeting when the issue will again be raised so the possibility remains

that Aquidneck could replace Rhode Island and additional confusion could ensue as to the name of the island as opposed to the name of the state.

While the issue of Rhode Island's potential name change held the greatest national interest, a proposal to change the name of various marsh islands along the coastal boundary of North Carolina and Virginia, in the area of Knotts Island and Back Bay, gave Conley Edwards, the state name authority for Virginia, a chance to show the research needed to render a decision from a local perspective. The request was to change Mon Island to Buckle Island in North Carolina. The City of Virginia Beach supported the change but only if another change could be made; change Buckle Island, in Virginia, to North Buckle Island.

There was evidence to support more than one side of the proposal. An additional tricky element was the fact that any decision affected not one but two states. Weighing in were local governments from both states. Longtime residents of the area raised objections.

The Geographic Names Authorities for Virginia and North Carolina objected to the change of Mon Island to Buckle Island because this would result in two islands named "buckle" being in close proximity. Conley Edwards objected to the proposed change from Buckle Island to North Buckle

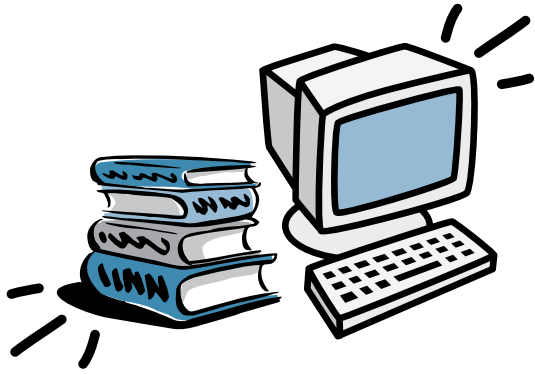
Island because of long-term documented usage of the existing name. Library of Virginia staff found in the Library's extensive collection of historical maps an undated map circa 1820–1830 that labeled the existing Mon Island and the adjoining channel Maunds Island and Maunds Channel.

After considerable discussion the Board deferred action until it could check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional office in Atlanta and receive further input.

In other action the Board rejected a request to change Lost Palms Oasis in California to Chiriaco Lost Palms Oasis and voted down a request to name three passes in wilderness Alaska.

The Board agreed to name a stream in Bristol County, Massachusetts, Castle Brook; approved the naming of another area in Massachusetts Grey Rocks. It allowed Phinney Lake in Texas to be changed to Footprints Lake and approved the change from the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Tributary to Burroughs Creek in Kansas. The creek now will honor the controversial Beat Generation author William S. Burroughs.

The U. S. Board of Geographic Names is critical in the development of standardized names for geographic features, making a large contribution to savings and efficiency in the operation of government, business and industry, communica- ...see **Name**, pg. 7



Did you know...?

There were at least 13 Virginians killed among the defenders of the Alamo on March 6, 1836. In addition at least three more Virginians were killed in action on March 27, 1836, at Goliad.

Virginians at the Alamo & Goliad: Virginia Military Dead Database Updated

Virginians fighting in a far-off, semi-arid land for the freedom of others is nothing new. In remembrance of the 168th anniversary of the climactic battles of the Texas Revolution, the names of the Virginians massacred at the Alamo (on March 6, 1836) and at Goliad (on March 27, 1836) have been added to the Virginia Military Dead database, <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil/vmd/index.asp>. Other conflicts appearing in the VMD for the first time are the Mexican, Indian and Seminole Wars.

Since the last update, seven more Virginians have been killed in Iraq. Their names along with 500 others from various conflicts have also been added to the database and made available to the public on May 28, 2004, in commemoration of Memorial Day.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Eye Of War : Words and Photographs from the Front Line, introduction by John Keegan; text by Phillip Knightley; pictures edited by Sarah Jackson and Annabel Merullo; design and art direction by David Rowley. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Books, 2003.

Soon after Louis J.M. Daguerre invented his photographic process in 1839, realistic images of war were captured when an unnamed photographer took the first daguerreotype of some United States cavalry grouped in a street during the Mexican-American War of 1846–1848. By the time of the Crimean War, the photographer Roger Fenton was famous for his images of that conflict, although the first pictures of war dead were not shown until the Second Opium War in 1860. *The Eye of War: Words and Photographs from the Front Line* is a recently published collection that begins in 1855 during the Crimean War, and concludes with the Second Gulf War in 2003.

The noted British military historian John Keegan provides a concise and valuable introduction to the evolution of war photography. Phillip Knightley identifies each photograph, and gives a historical overview in each of the eight chapters that divide the collection chronologically and thematically. Along with these riveting illustrations are first-person accounts that include the words of generals and statesmen, corporals and privates, and journalists and civilians. Although it does omit the Indian Wars in the American West, the book includes pictures of other “minor” conflicts along with those of the American Civil War and both World Wars. While many of these pictures are, for obvious reasons, quite disturbing, *The Eye of War* is an important addition to the history of both photography and modern warfare.

Mergent Company Archives Manual. New York, N.Y.: Mergent, 2001—

The *Mergent Company Archives Manual*, the newest addition to the *Mergent Manuals* series (previously named *Moodys Manuals*),

makes locating information about defunct companies easier. This annual series starts in 2001 with the final statistical records of more than 2,700 companies, showing corporations that, from 1996 forward became bankrupt, disappeared as private companies, or merged into or were acquired by another company. Each yearly supplement adds companies that have ended after 2001. As with all of the Mergent Manuals, this set includes a concise narrative of a firm's corporate history and names of major officers and directors, along with the final two balance sheets, three income statements, and capital structure. Uniquely, these reports are the last ones of a corporation, and each begins with a description of the company's end. There is an alphabetical company name index in each book, and the 2001 volume adds a list of company name changes. This set is now one of the first places to look for the last information about a firm. As such, it fills a void about companies that have vanished from the current picture.

Destiny... lives became examples for others to follow. They represent the well known and the obscure but are among the agents of change whose actions were pivotal to the course of our commonwealth.

The new scholarship and insights into Virginia women's history that this exhibition presents can be glimpsed in the life experiences of women from varied backgrounds and with varied careers. Living their lives in different regions and time

periods, Virginia women who were famous, and those who were not famous, made history.

Admission to the exhibition is free. The exhibition is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The Library will present a series of noon and evening events in conjunction with the exhibition. On March 18–March 19, 2005, a public symposium on women's history in Virginia will be held at the Library

highlighting new research and discoveries in Virginia women's history.

Please check out the Library's web site <www.lva.lib.va.us> for periodic updates on the exhibition and the programs and symposium.

Square... sought to coordinate long range planning for the capitol complex. Its members debated two major proposals: removing the functioning Capitol and ancillary buildings to another location or expanding the existing Capitol Square.

A site plan for both proposals was undertaken by Richmond architect Merrill C. Lee in consultation with the firms of Baskervill & Son, Carneal & Johnston, and Marcellus Wright & Son. The accompanying written report entitled "Site Study for Future State Buildings, September 1949" noted that the proposed site at the terminus of Monument Avenue, the "West End Site," featured a preserved Confederate earthworks and fortification which would be retained with future planning allowing for the development of a state park or a zoological or botanical garden. The architectural rendering for the 350-acre parcel shows a U-shaped complex of office buildings with a central skyscraper reminiscent of Huey Long's 1932 Art Deco Louisiana State Capitol. The proposed site featured a landscaped mall complete with reflecting pools and fountains. Upon completion of this scheme, many of the downtown structures then used for state office space would have been turned over to other entities. For instance, the Highway Building and State Office Building (Washington Building) would have been turned over to the Medical College of Virginia. The argument for the so-called "West End plan" centered on cost and development. Such a project would cost about \$8,000,000 less than the downtown plan and allow for future expansion into at least the next decade and perhaps beyond.

However, the majority of the Public Building Commission members advocated expanding the existing Capitol Square eastward to allow for growth. The Capitol Square expansion plan would have extended the square eastward to 15th Street and southward to Main Street, utilizing some existing structures in the annexed area for state purposes and constructing new high-rise office buildings to encompass the new southeast corner of the square. The 1949 study called for the demolition of the Finance Building and central power plant and the remodeling of the State Office Building (Washington Building) to match the new structures. The majority favored the Capitol Square plan because of the "rich historical associations" of Mr. Jefferson's Capitol to the "sentimental sensibilities of all Virginians." Additionally, area businessmen, through letters to the governor,

Name... tions and education. The names on geographic features are a reflection of the history of the United States. Names of Native American origin, names reflecting the national languages of early settlers and explorers can be found on the map of the United States. Often geographic naming gives a profile of the United States not found elsewhere. In the late 19th century the importance of systematic standardization of geographic names resulted in President Benjamin Harrison signing the executive order establishing the United States Board on Geographic Names. From the outset a primary principle is the formal recognition of present-day local usage. The Board works closely with state geographic name authorities, state and local governments and the general public to determine the choice, spelling and application of each name for official use. Other factors include historical usage, legal usage, legislative usage, verbal usage and written usage.

The Board decides chiefly on the names of natural features of the land, unincorporated localities and populated places in the United States, its territories and outlying areas. It identifies one name for one geographic entity. For more information about the Geographic Names Information System and the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, please visit <<http://geonames.usgs.gov>>.



Tom Camden, director of Special Collections, shows members of the Bon Air Women's Club the newly restored volume of Washington letters during a recent tour of the Library.

expressed their support for the Capitol Square expansion plan citing the downtown infrastructure of businesses and restaurants that supported and were supported by the legislature and state agencies.

While the West End plan did not call for a legislative change to the seat of government, it would have moved most of the functions of state government to the Monument Avenue site with the Capitol serving a ceremonial purpose. The minority of the Public Building Commission, while recognizing the importance of the Square, wanted to keep the West End option open due to its significant cost difference. Both sides, however, agreed in their January 14, 1950, report to the governor that the proposals needed further study and recommended the same.

Action on the report, officially submitted to Governor Tuck, fell to John Stewart Battle, who was due to take office on January 18, 1950. The public and private debates over these two proposals in the intervening two years are unclear. Ultimately, however, the government dropped the West End plan in April 1952, when Governor Battle narrowed the possibilities to two sites, both near Capitol Square.

The grand plans for expansion of the square never came to pass, though the plan

for a horseshoe of high-rise office buildings to the south and east of the square was revisited in 1953. Making a study of recently completed, high-profile office buildings such as the United Nations and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Building, Merrill Lee set out on the construction of what is now known as the Jefferson Building. This was to be the first (or second, if you count the Washington Building) in a succession of state office buildings ringing the Capitol Square and named for Founding Fathers.

The state never undertook the full project advocated by Lee. Completion of this scheme would have severely damaged the architectural fabric of downtown Richmond through the loss of Old City Hall (1893), the Finance Building (1895) and the Life Insurance Company of Virginia Building (1906, 1922), as well as a shocking corruption of the southern view from the Capitol steps. The state government stills struggles with the high cost of rent for state office use and continues to seek office space in publicly owned buildings.

—submitted by Vincent Brooks,
originally published in the Description
Services Branch in-house newsletter




Author Nancy Pearl signs a copy of her book, *Book Lust*, for a fan at a book talk in honor of National Library Week at the Library of Virginia.

Literary Awards To Be Held October 16

The 7th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors & Friends will be held Saturday, October 16, 2004, starting at 6:30 PM at the Library of Virginia. Forty-four books received nominations in the fiction category; 65 in the non-fiction category and 16 in the poetry category. The winners in each category and the lifetime achievement award will be announced at the festivities on October 16 as well as a special new award.

Details for this fabulous literary event will be mailed later this summer. For more information, please call 804-371-4795. Also watch for the James River Writers Festival, October 1-15 in Richmond.

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